

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02061 301432Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2061

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PGOV, PINR, BB, US

SUBJECT: U.S./BARBADIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1902

1. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A TWO HOUR MEETING WITH MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, FORDE, ALTHOUGH I WENT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING PANAMA TREATY SIGNING CEREMONY, (FORDE INSISTS PRIME MINISTER ADAMS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO), FORDE SOON TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO A DISCUSSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT. FORDE IS OBVIOUSLY PERSONALLY VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THIS PROBLEM. I BELIEVE HE NOW REALIZES THAT HE HAS MADE A \$100 MILLION MISCALCULATION.

2. FORDE ASKED IF I HAD HAD ANY US REACTION TO THE GOB PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE OF AUGUST 5 REPORTED BRIDGETOWN 1902. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT THUS FAR I HAD NO REACTION. FORDE SAID THAT THE GOB WAS NOW CONVINCED THAT THE US IN FACT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE FACILITY. I TOLD HIM THAT WHAT I KNOW WAS THAT INDEED
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WE DID WISH TO KEEP THE FACILITY BUT THERE WAS LIMIT AS TO WHAT WE COULD PAY TO ASSURE THIS.

3. FORDE IS VERY MUCH UPSET BY THE TURN OF EVENTS. HE SAID THAT SOON HE WOULD START PRESSING US FOR A REPLY AND THAT IF WE HAD DECIDED TO PHASE OUT THE FACILITY WE COULD COUNT ON A SUITABLE TIME IN WHICH TO

DO SO.

4. UNDERLYING THIS CONVERSATION I DETECTED A STRONG SENSE THAT THE BARBADIANS ARE MORE CONFUSED AND UPSET OVER OUR INTENTIONS THAN EVER. FORDE SEEMS TO BE TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF BILLING US FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES FOR THE MANY YEARS OR RENT-FREE USE OF THE FACILITY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SOON GIVE THEM SOME INDICATION OF WHAT WE PLAN TO DO.

5. I NOW BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A POINT IN THIS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN WHICH WOULD MAKE A SHORT PERIOD OF CONSULTATION DESIRABLE. IF YOU AGREE, I RECOMMEND THAT I COME TO WASHINGTON AROUND THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER JUST AFTER MY VISIT TO ANTIGUA. JOHN EDDY IS FULLY CAPABLE OF TAKING OVER THE MISSION HERE. PLEASE ADVISE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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